TWO MINUTE SKETCHES

Thomas Jefferson.

By J. A. EDGERTON.

Jefferson's greatest power was his optimistic faith in the common people.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, while the great Democrat of his era, was of rather aristocratic parentage and had the advantage of a liberal education. He was peculiarly, considering his time and surroundings, of the type of the scholar in politics. That he should have been this and yet the foremost American radical of his day marks him as an odd combination in our history. The turning point in his career was his appointment to draft the Declaration of Independence. This came about from a double cause—Jefferson's reputation as a writer of political documents and the jealousy felt by certain members of congress toward Richard Henry Lee, who had introduced the independence resolution. Volumes have been written to disprove Jefferson's authorship of the Declaration, and a widespread belief has persisted even to the present that most of it, if not all, was really written by Thomas Paine. However that may have been, the fact that Jefferson was appointed to prepare the document, the consequent inference that it was his work and the reputation resultant therefrom operated powerfully to make him a political leader. In addition to this, the unquestioned products of his pen, breathing the spirit of advanced democracy and the doctrines of the French revolution, tended to place him at the head of the growing democratic sentiment in this country.

Jefferson's greatest power was his optimistic faith in the people. He trusted them, and they returned the compliment. Herein is to be found the secret of his success. He was not a speaker. He belonged to the school of the idealists rather than to that of the practical politicians. He inclined to be a freethinker in religion. All these things were handicaps rather than helps toward popularity. It was Jefferson's persistent advocacy of the rights of the people and his implicit trust in their judgment that made him so strong with the masses. It was this that made him the most commanding figure at the beginning of the nineteenth century and an influential factor from that day to the present.

In person Mr. Jefferson was tall and bony, with light eyes, ruddy complexion and red hair.

Benjamin Franklin.

By J. A. EDGERTON.

He went without lunches to have more time to read.

TO improve his style as a writer Benjamin Franklin as a boy read passages from Addison's Spectator, then two or three days later tried to reproduce them. He was careful not to memorize the language, but only fixed the thought in his mind, then by comparing his own language with the original was enabled to discover the defects in his style.

To improve his conduct Franklin made out a list of the cardinal virtues, then marked down any infraction of them during each day. He also adopted early in life a set of simple rules for his guidance.

In youth Franklin happened to read Xenophon's description of the Socratic method, and it made a lasting impression on his mind. He decided to drop the dogmatic way of making statements and to follow the plan of the wise old Athenian. To this habit of asking questions and making suggestive and tentative statements rather than being self assertive and positive Franklin ascribed much of his later success as a writer and diplomat.

He ran away from Boston while a mere stripling, yet before he left he had read every book on which he could lay his hands. He even went without his lunches with the twofold object of having more time in which to read and of having more money to spend for books.

Franklin's first notable success was with "Poor Richard's Almanac," the quaint and wise sayings in which attained immediate and worldwide popularity and were translated into almost every known tongue.

In Franklin's electrical experiments, especially the famous one with the kite, he endangered his life, yet so intent was he on discovering the truth that he seemed utterly indifferent to personal peril.

Franklin's moral courage was shown nowhere more than in his treatment of his illegitimate son, William. He took the boy to live in his own home and introduced him everywhere as his son, both in America and Europe.

Pharaoh's Bad Temper.

A German savant has just discovered why Pharaoh hardened his heart and gave the children of Israel such a bad time. It is really no wonder that the hapless monarch was bad tempered, according to this investigator, for his mummy shows that he must have suffered from gout, a disease which has never been known to produce sweetness of disposition, and that he must also have been a martyr to toothache, all his teeth being in a shocking state of decay. If only among the children of Israel there could have been found some skilled worker in gold who could have filled these royal teeth, they might have been allowed to depart in peace. The mummy also shows that this ancient ruler, who died 1,200 years before the Christian era, was stout and baldheaded.

Why Go to Congress?

"There is a place in Washington," says a correspondent, "where an old fashioned fried chicken, cream gravy and hoecake dinner may be had for $1."

Statisticians have never tried to estimate the number of places in Kentucky where this sort of a meal may be had at the invitation of the farmer whose hospitality doesn't balk at a book agent or an umbrella mender, albeit his fare is fit for a king.

BRITISH CONSOLS.

Origin and History of This Feature of English Securities.

Almost all the debt of England consists of the funded debt, so called, and the greater part of this is made up of "consols," which is an abbreviation of "consolidated stocks," of which we read every day in the papers, and the price of consols is the financial pulse of England.

Consols were created in 1752 by statute 25 of George II., chapter 27. But no scrap of paper ever represented a consol until, to facilitate commerce, in 1870 a statute was passed allowing the government to issue certificates to represent them. The property that all the world asked the price of every day was unrepresented by any monetary securities until 1870, and even now very few certificates have been issued.

Now, this is a consol, and this is its history: Originally some one had loaned the government £100, and the government had caused his name to be enrolled on its books as a creditor, from whom it had received that amount and to whom some day it might, if it chose, repay it. It need never do so, but until it did it must pay him an annuity of £3—that is, he received 3 per cent on his money as long as the government chose to keep it, but the government could pay it back at any time it chose to do so. This creditor then owned a consol—that is, he owned such a debt from the government as just described.

If he wished to transfer what rights he had—that is, his 3 per cent per annum—and the right to his £100 when, if ever, the government chose to return it, he could go to the Bank of England with his transferee and receive the purchase price from him, and the stock would be transferred to the man paying the consideration, and that man's name would be placed on the government's book in the place of the former owner, and thereafter the transferee would receive the £3 a year and the £100, if it was ever paid back. But no paper passed except the receipt for the purchase money which was given by the buyer and which the bank official checked with a red mark.

These receipts were not certificates of ownership and were seldom preserved, never except for purposes of identification when the new owner went to draw his first dividend. After that they were destroyed. It is true in old times the owner of a consol was given a tally, which was nothing but a block of wood with notches on it split in two so that a portion of each notch should be on each half, and the government kept one half and the owner of the stock the other.

These showed the state of the account between the government and its creditor, but this was an antiquated system of keeping accounts, brought down from the days when writing was little known, and at last they were abolished by act of parliament and burned. There were so many of them that when they were thrown into the furnaces these became superheated, and the parliament houses burned down, which perhaps served the authorities right for keeping the antiquated system so long.

HINDOO CASTE MARKS.

The Women of India Wear Them on the Forehead.

The caste marks worn by women in India are confined to the forehead and are more uniform than those affected by the men.

The orthodox mark invariably worn on religious and ceremonial occasions is a small saffron spot in the center of the forehead. But the more popular and fashionable mark is a tiny one made with a gluelike substance, usually jet black in color, which is obtained by frying sago till it gets charred and then boiling it in water.

Women who have not reached their twenties are sometimes partial to the use of small tinsel disks, purchasable in the bazaar at the rate of about half a dozen for a pie. To attach these to the skin the commonest material used is the gum of the jack fruit, quantities of which will be found sticking to a wall or pillar in the house, ready for immediate use.

In the more orthodox families it is considered objectionable that the forehead of a woman should remain blank even for a moment, and accordingly it is permanently marked with a tattooed vertical line. The blister takes sometimes a fortnight to heal, but the Hindoo woman, who is nothing if not a martyr by temperament and training, suffers the pain uncomplainingly.—Madras Mail.

THE GHOST OF THE FUTURE.

Fear of Coming to Want and the Terror of Failure.

The terror of failure and the fear of coming to want keep multitudes of people from obtaining the very things they desire by sapping their vitality, by incapacitating them through worry, anxiety and fear from the effective, creative work necessary to give them success.

Wherever we go this fear ghost, this terror specter, stands between men and their goal. No person is in position to do good work while haunted by it. There can be no great courage where there is no confidence or assurance, and half the battle is in the conviction that we can do what we undertake.

The mind, always full of doubts, fears, forebodings, is not in a position to do effective, creative work, but is perpetually handicapped by this unfortunate attitude.

Nothing will so completely paralyze the creative power of the mind and body as a dark, gloomy, discouraged mental attitude. No great creative work can be done by a man who is not an optimist.

The human mind cannot accomplish great work unless the banner of hope goes in advance. A man will follow this banner when money, friends, reputation, everything else has gone.—Success Magazine.

Different Now.

"It's funny how marriage will change a man," said Flogg the other day. "There's Mouster, for example. Before he was married a glance of May Taintor would intoxicate him, so he used to say. Now when he comes home late at night and meets Mrs. Mouster, nee Taintor, the sight of her actually sobers him."—Boston Transcript.

Never Worked Before.

Mrs. Jones—Your husband looks completely tired out, poor man! Mrs. Smith—So he is, my dear. He has never done any work in his life before. You know he always had a government job.—Funny Cuts.

A Popular Book.

She—What would be the most appropriate book to give a bride? He—A bank book.—Illustrated Bits.

RULES OF THE KING.

Formalities When Edward VII. Attends a Public Dinner.

When his majesty is to preside at a public dinner a variety of formalities have to be rigidly observed. In the first place, the invitation, including a list of the committee, the toast list and the speakers, must be received at Buckingham palace at least a month or six weeks ahead of the date proposed for the function. It is then submitted to the king by his private secretary, and if the date does not clash with arrangements made previously, all other details being in order, the invitation is graciously accepted.

A statement must also be sent announcing the hour at which the function is to begin and when it is expected to end. These two points are most essential, as royalty and punctuality are synonymous terms. Moreover, the king does not care to spend more than a certain number of hours at any public dinner; therefore speeches and other matters have to be arranged accordingly.

After these necessary preliminaries have been satisfactorily arranged the day on which the banquet is to take place is awaited. An hour or so before the commencement of the dinner an official arrives at the banqueting hall. It is his duty to examine the plan of the tables and to see that the chair of the king is suitably placed so as to be free from drafts, noises and other disturbing influences. This official is exceedingly fastidious, and his word is law. On not a few occasions he has thrown every one into a state of consternation by demanding a change in the arrangements of a dinner at the eleventh hour. The requirements of his majesty in these and other matters, however, are now so well known that mistakes are of rare occurrence.

As soon as the seating arrangements have been "passed" the special wine which the illustrious guest is to drink arrives in charge of a royal servant. Members of the royal family always send their own wine to public dinners and in many cases their own special brands of cigars also. The wine is in the charge of a responsible servant in the employ of the royal household, whose duty it is to stand behind the chair of his master and wait upon him.

Special attention has to be paid to the menu, care being taken that the card contains an assortment of dishes for which the more important members of the royal family have a predilection. The menu is usually short and rarely exceeds four or five courses. Private servants always attend exclusively to the requirements of the royal guests.

Like most of his subjects, his majesty has dining whims. He will on no account, for instance, allow two knives to lie on the table before him together. It is believed that the king puts some faith in the well known superstition that ill comes from the crossing of knives. Let this be as it may, at all dinners held at Buckingham palace a clean knife is placed beside each guest with every course, and this rule must be rigidly observed at all public as well as private dinners attended by his majesty. And his servants take special pains to see that it is so.

Dinner must be served as soon as his majesty is seated. None save members of the royal family is expected to converse with the king until addressed by him, and a stranger must on no account attempt conversation without a formal introduction. The royal visitor is exceedingly particular on this point and is most precise in indicating those to whom he wishes to be introduced.

No one is permitted to leave the table at a public dinner until all the members of the royal family have first risen and retired. The king rarely smokes at public functions, but a special room is usually set aside for his majesty's accommodation should he wish to do so.—London Tit-Bits.

The Sphinx and the Infinite.

I can imagine the most determined atheist looking at the sphinx and in a flash not merely believing, but feeling, that he had before him proof of the life of the soul beyond the grave, of the life of the soul of Khufu beyond the tomb of his pyramid. Always as you return to the sphinx you wonder at it more, you adore more strangely its repose, you steep yourself more intimately in the aloof peace that seems to emanate from it as light emanates from the sun. And as you look on it at last perhaps you understand the infinite; you understand where is the bourn to which the finite flows with all its greatness, as the great Nile flows from beyond Victoria Nyanza to the sea.—Century.

Invalids' Rooms In Church.

"An invalids' room is an occasional feature of the modern church," said an architect. "A very convenient feature it is, too, especially for health resorts. These rooms are usually erected on one side of the pulpit and a little above it. They have little windows through which the invalid congregation may look out. They have also couches, rocking chairs, reclining chairs. Thanks to these rooms, invalids, well wrapped up, may rest comfortably and, secure from drafts, may listen every Sunday morning to good music and an edifying sermon."—New York Press.

The Land of Ophir.

Dr. Karl Peters at a recent public meeting in Berlin declared emphatically that the historic land of Ophir is located between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers, in Africa. He has discovered many shafts of ancient gold mines, 500 temples, fortifications and other ruins of Phoenician origin. Dr. Peters affirms that the coins recently unearthed in Mashonaland belong undoubtedly to the time of King Solomon.

From the Eating House Viewpoint.

Representative Francis W. Cushman of Washington, the humorist of the house, was born in Iowa. When he was a boy he and a friend started west. They walked. The going was not very good, and when they reached Omaha Cushman's friend decided that was far enough west for him and stayed. Cushman stayed for a time, too, and both of the emigrants got jobs as waiters in the railroad eating house. After Cushman had saved a little money he went on to Washington. His friend decided to stay in the eating house, and so they separated. When Cushman had been elected to congress the first time he stopped off at Omaha and found his friend still working in the eating house.

"What are you doing now, Frank?" the old friend asked.

"Why, I am living in Washington, and I am a congressman now. I have been elected to congress."

"You don't say," commented the friend. "Ain't you sorry you didn't stay here? You might have been boss of this eating house if you hadn't gone trapesing off there farther west."—Saturday Evening Post.

FIXED THE PIANO.

An Unmusical Variation In One of Gottschalk's Concerts.

Gottschalk, the pianist, was noted for his enormous physical strength almost as much as for his brilliance as a pianist. On one occasion he gave a practical illustration of his strength which, while it did not display his disposition in the most amiable light, undoubtedly afforded him much satisfaction.

He was in concert playing on a piano that was built on a new model, one of the peculiarities of which was that the lip of the keyboard cover projected farther over the keys than in most pianos when the instrument was open for playing. Gottschalk, who was accustomed to throw up his hand to a considerable height during the performance of brilliant passages and was unused to this new form of keyboard, constantly hit his knuckles against the projecting lip.

This repeated rapping of his knuckles at last began to have an irritating effect on him, as the audience could plainly see. Suddenly after a particularly hard rap he stopped short in the middle of his selection, wrenched the offending cover out of the instrument by main force and hurled it across the platform with great violence. Then, with a smile of the greatest satisfaction, he reseated himself at the piano and continued his playing.—Chicago Record-Herald.

CIRCUS RIDERS.

They Were Kings of the Show In the Old One Ring Days.

Riders at one time were the chief attraction of the circus and were billed as we now bill our "death defying deeds." In the old one ring days the whole performance was practically divided between the rider and the clown. When the rider was not riding the clown had the ring all to himself, even the band ceasing to play until the clown sang or got off his jokes, after which the rider resumed the performance. All riders in those days were champions in the show printing, writes Tody Hamilton in the Washington Star.

When the late James A. Bailey made his tour of Australia he had Jim Robinson, the great rider, at $500 a week, payable in gold. The showman became sick of his bargain and tried to scare Robinson out of it by dwelling on the unhealthfulness of the climate. He told Robinson that it was very risky; that few people could stand it. But Robinson was wise and wouldn't scare and insisted on the terms of the contract.

It used to make Bailey turn cold to approach Robinson on the long voyage every week and hand the champion $500 in gold coin the same as if the rider were at work, but Jim held Bailey to his contract. No rider before or since has ever received such a salary.

Fasting as a Sacrifice.

The origin of the religious practice of fasting is very obscure. Herbert Spencer collected a considerable body of evidence to show that fasting may have arisen out of the custom among savage peoples of providing refreshments for the dead. These offerings are often made in so lavish a manner as necessarily to involve the survivors in temporary starvation, and it is no uncommon thing for a man to ruin himself by a funeral feast. It is suggested that the fasting which was at first the inevitable result of such sacrifice on behalf of the dead may eventually have come to be regarded as an indispensable part of all sacrifice and so have survived as an established usage long after the original cause had ceased to operate.—New York American.

A PERSON OBSESSED.

The Victim of an Insistent and Compulsive Habit of Action.

The word "obsession" may be defined as an insistent and compulsive thought, habit of mind or tendency to action. The person so burdened is said to be obsessed.

Few children are quite free from obsession. Some must step on stones; others must walk or avoid cracks; some must ascend the stairs with the right foot first; many must kick posts or touch objects a certain number of times. Some must count the windows, pictures and figures on the wall paper; some must bite the nails or pull the eye winkers.

Consider the nail biter. It cannot be said that he toils not, but to what end? Merely to gratify an obsession. He nibbles a little here and a little there; he frowns, elevates his elbow and inverts his finger to reach an otherwise inaccessible corner. Does he enjoy it? No, not exactly, but he would be miserable if he discontinued.

It is during childhood that we form most of the automatic habits which are to save time and thought in later life, and it is not surprising that some foolish habits creep in. As a rule, children drop these tendencies at need, just as they drop the rules assumed in play, though they are sometimes so absorbing as to cause inconvenience.

An interesting instance was that of the boy who had to touch every one wearing anything red. On one occasion his whole family lost their train because of the prevalence of his color among those waiting in the station.

The longer these tendencies are retained in adult life the greater the danger of their becoming coercive. And so far as the well established case is concerned, the obsessive act must be performed, though the business, social and political world should come to a standstill.

A child who must kick posts is father to the man who cannot eat an egg which has been boiled either more or less than four minutes, who cannot work without absolute silence, who cannot sleep if steam pipes crackle and who must straighten out all tangles of his life, past, present and future, before he can close his eyes in slumber or take a vacation.

The boy Carlyle, proud, shy, sensitive and pugnacious, was father to the man who made war upon neighbors' poultry and had a room, proof against sound, specially constructed for his literary labors.—Lippincott's Magazine.

A Convenient Possum.

An old negro preacher gave as his text, "De tree is known by his fruit, an' hit des onpossible ter shake de possum down."

After the benediction an old brother said to him:

"I never knowed befo' dat such a text wuz in de Bible."

"Well," admitted the preacher, "hit ain't 'xactly sot down dataways. I th'owed in de possum ter hit de intelligence er my congregation!"—Atlanta Constitution.

A SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE.

Universal Distrust of Strangers In the Russian Empire.

"The usefulness of the czar's chief of police depends on his amount of suspicion and his alertness in putting it into active use," says Thomas Stevens in a book entitled "Through Russia on a Mustang." "It is suspicion everywhere.

"For several weeks," says the author, "I was thrown in daily intimate contact with Sascha, my traveling companion. He was a transparent, warm hearted young fellow, but from first to last he never ceased to regard me with suspicion.

"At one village he lost his passport. Ten hours later after I had bribed an official to let him proceed he confessed in a burst of confidence that he had believed I had destroyed the passport in order to get rid of him. All day he had nursed his suspicion, unsuspected by me, until I had unwittingly cleared myself by my bribe to the police.

"Among the peasants suspicion takes curious forms. In a general way I was always under the ban of distrust. By the men I was regarded as a secret agent of the government, by the women as a wizard. The host of an inn always watched me closely to see that I did not clear out and leave him unpaid. He would even give sly peeps into my room at night.

"I was always being suspected of trying to pass counterfeit money.

"'What makes them so long with the change?' I asked Sascha once.

"'They are afraid the money bad.'

"'Well, the change is only 30 kopecks. We will not wait any longer.'

"'That would never do. Then they will be sure it is bad.'

"The length of time I was kept waiting for change for a receipt depended on the denomination of the bill. For a two ruble note the host would be satisfied with the verdict of two or three other capable financiers. A five ruble note meant extraordinary precautions and consultations with half the experts of the village."

THE PLAY ITSELF WAS GOOD.

That Much, at Least, the Actor-Critic Had to Admit.

John Hare, the English actor, once went to see one of Beerbohm Tree's infrequent performances of Hamlet. He would willingly have avoided Tree for some little time afterward for reasons obvious to others who, like him, had seen this least impressive of this actor's roles.

Hare chivalrously remained in his box to the end of the play. As the curtain descended on each act he had dreaded the invitation of his fellow player to his dressing room, where the usual courtesies would have been expected.

Act by act slipped by without any word from the stage, and Hare grew proportionately relieved. As the last curtain fell, however, and Hare retired from the box he found a messenger at the door with "Mr. Tree's compliments, and wouldn't he come home for a bite of supper with some friends?"

At table Hare parried opening after opening, yet not once did Tree refer directly to his Hamlet. Hare on his part dreaded every break in the conversation would bring the dreaded topic. After a decent time he drew away from table to go home. Tree accompanied him to the hall to put on his coat. "Now's my hour," thought Hare. Not one word from Tree. They shook hands on the threshold, and Hare started down the steps in happy relief. Tree followed him to his carriage. Hare heard him in dread. Still the topic was avoided. Tree, with cordial courtesy, opened the door. Hare slipped into the cushions of the carriage, joyfully heard the door slam and drew a deep sigh.

But before the horses started Tree's head was in at the window, and he said, with blighting suavity:

"At least, John, you'll admit it's a good play."

The Source of Life.

In paleozoic times it was the earth itself, not the sun, to which plant and animal primarily stood beholden for existence. This gives us a most instructive glimpse into one planetologic process. To the planet's own internal heat is due the chief fostering of the beginnings of life upon its surface. Thus a planet is capable of at least beginning to develop organisms without more than a modicum of help from the central sun. We talk of the sun as the source of life, and so it is today in the sense of being its sustainer, but the real source was the earth itself, which also raised it through its babyhood.—Professor Lowell's "The Evolution of Life" in Century Magazine.

Ancient Posters.

It is probably the general impression that posters and handbills are modern inventions, but it has been discovered that the ancient Romans practiced this method of advertising. In digging at Herculaneum there was brought to light a pillar covered with bills, one on top of another. The paste used to stick them was made of gum arabic. The bills, when separated and examined, were found to be programmes and announcements of public meetings and even election proclamations.

Measuring a Spirit.

A man of St. Joseph, Mo., relates a story in connection with a spiritualistic meeting once held in that town. A man named Daniel Miller, who was some six feet seven inches in height, had died recently.

The spirit of Daniel was called for by some one at the seance mentioned. When it had appeared and announced its readiness to reply to any question, some one asked:

"Are you in heaven?"

"Yes," came from the shade of Daniel.

"Are you an angel, Dan?"

"Yes."

At this juncture the questioner paused, having apparently exhausted his fund of questions. But, to the amusement of all, he suddenly added, "And what do you measure from tip to tip, Dan?"—St. Louis Republic.

Took Kindly to the Water.

They tell this story of the experience of two Maine boys in trying to catch a woodchuck:

They had tried quite a number of times to capture the animal, but unsuccessfully. At last they decided to drown him out; so, procuring four pails, each took two, and they carried water for two solid hours and poured it into the hole in the ground in which the said chuck had taken up his abode. Getting tired, they sat down. After about half an hour the woodchuck cautiously left the hole and deliberately walked down to the brook and took a long drink of water and then scooted, much to the disgust of the two boys.

NEW YORK, PHILA. & NORFOLK R.R.

Train Schedule in Effect Jan. 6, 1908.

South-Bound Trains.

	47	49	49	45
	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
New York	7 30	9 00	9 00	12 20
Philadelphia	10 00	11 22	11 22	3 00
Wilmington	10 44	12 35	12 05	3 44
Baltimore	9 00	7 52	7 52	1 35
Delmar	1 30	3 01	30 1	6 48
Salisbury	1 41	3 10	3 10	7 00
Cape Charles	4 30	6 15	6 15	
Old Point Comfort	6 25	8 10	8 10	
Norfolk (arrive)	7 15	9 05	9 05	
	p.m.	a.m.	a.m.	p.m.

North-Bound Trains.

	48	50	40	50
Leave	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m
Norfolk	7 20	6 00		6 00
Old Point Comfort	8 05	7 00		7 00
Cape Charles	10 20	9 15		9 15
Salisbury	12 57	12 30	7 00	12 30
Delmar	1 06	12 45	7 11	12 45
	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	a.m
Arrive				
Wilmington	3 49	4 10	10 17	4 10
Philadelphia	4 33	5 18	11 00	5 18
Baltimore	5 22	6 01	11 35	6 01
New York	7 00	8 00	1 15	8 00
	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.

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